

# Strategy, Planning and Development Committee Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, 19 June, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** Civic Centre, Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue

**Elected Members:** His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo  
Cr Gavin Benney  
Cr Nicholas Connop  
Cr Ken Couper  
Cr Jayne Golightly  
Cr Phil Halse  
Cr Deborah Harding  
Cr Patrick Holmes  
Cr Scott McKenzie  
Cr Marie Olsen  
Cr Carol Peters  
Cr Simon Reid  
Cr Phoenix Ruka  
Cr Paul Yovich

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

<b>1. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga</b>	
<b>2. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai</b>	
<b>3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Strategy, Planning and Development Committee Meeting / Whakatau Meneti</b>	
3.1 Minutes Strategy, Planning and Development Committee meeting 15 May 2025	7
<b>4. Information Reports / Ngā Pūrongo Kōrero</b>	
4.1 Operational Report - Strategy, Planning and Development - June 2025	11
<b>5. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata</b>	
<b>6. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui</b>	
<p>Recommendations contained in the agenda are not the decisions of the meeting.</p> <p>Please refer to minutes for resolutions.</p>	

## ***Strategy, Planning and Development Committee – Terms of Reference***

### **Membership**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Councillor Ken Couper
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Councillor Scott McKenzie
<b>Members</b>	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Councillors Gavin Benney, Nicholas Connop, Jayne Golightly, Phil Halse, Deborah Harding, Patrick Holmes, Marie Olsen, Carol Peters, Simon Reid, Phoenix Ruka and Paul Yovich

**Meetings** Monthly

**Quorum** 7

### **Purpose**

To oversee planning, monitoring, education and enforcement activities, and guide the economic and physical development and growth of Whangarei District.

### **Key responsibilities**

- Regulatory and compliance
  - Environmental health
  - General bylaw administration
  - Animal (dog and stock control)
  - Hazardous substances and new organism control
  - Parking enforcement (vehicles registrations and warrant of fitness)
  - Noise control
  - Food Act
- Building Control
  - Property Information and Land Information Memoranda
  - Consents and inspections
  - Monitoring and compliance
- Resource Consents
  - Subdivision, land use and development control
  - Development contributions
  - Monitoring and compliance
- District Plan
  - Plan changes
  - District Plan administration

- Strategic Planning
  - Place based strategies (city centre), functional strategies (climate change)
  - Climate Adaptation
  - Growth planning
  - Urban design
  - Strategic alignment of infrastructure
  - Reporting strategic trends and analysis
- Economic Development
  - District marketing and promotions
  - Developer engagement
- Marinas
- Airport
- Forestry
- Operational accountability of performance including:
  - Health and Safety
  - Regular reporting on service delivery
  - Compliance
  - Sustainability
  - Finance
- Reporting on capital projects.
- Operational reporting for the Strategy and Democracy and Planning and Development groups within Council where their functions are not covered by other Committees.
- Procurement – general procurement relating to the areas of business of this committee, within delegations.
- Shared Services – investigate opportunities for Shared Services for recommendation to council.
- Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) – monitoring the financial and non-financial performance of CCOs whose functions would otherwise fall under the scope of this committee. Includes trading CCOs (CCTOs) and those CCOs exempted under the LGA. Responsibilities include:
  - advising on the content of annual Statement of Expectations to CCOs
  - agreement of the Statement of Intent
  - monitoring against the Statement of Intent
  - for exempted CCOs, monitoring and reporting as agreed between Council and the organisation
  - quarterly reporting on performance

**CCO accountable to this committee:**

- Whangarei District Airport – CCO

**Delegations**

- (i) All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities, including, but not limited to:
  - a) the approval of expenditure of less than \$5 million plus GST.
  - b) approval of a submission to an external body.
  - c) establishment of working parties or steering groups.
  - d) adoption of strategies and policies relating to the key responsibilities of this committee (except for those that cannot be delegated by Council under Clause 32(1)(f) of Schedule 7 of the LGA).
  - e) the power to adopt the Special Consultative Procedure provided for in Section 83 to 88 of the LGA in respect of matters under its jurisdiction (this allows for setting of fees and bylaw making processes up to but not including adoption).
  - f) the power to delegate any of its powers to any joint committee established for any relevant purpose under clause 32, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**The Committee does not have:**

- i. The power to establish sub-committees.
- ii. The powers Council is expressly prohibited from delegating as outlined in Clause 32(1)(a)-(h) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; being:
  - the power to make a rate
  - the power to make a bylaw
  - the power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan
  - the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report
  - the power to appoint a chief executive the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement
  - the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.



## Strategy, Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, 15 May, 2025  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Civic Centre, Te Iwitihi, 9 Rust Avenue

<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Cr Ken Couper (Chairperson)</b> <b>Cr Scott McKenzie (Deputy Chairperson)</b> <b>His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo</b> <b>Cr Nicholas Connop</b> <b>Cr Jayne Golightly</b> <b>Cr Phil Halse</b> <b>Cr Deborah Harding</b> <b>Cr Carol Peters</b> <b>Cr Simon Reid</b> <b>Cr Paul Yovich</b>
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<b>Not in Attendance</b>	<b>Cr Gavin Benney</b> <b>Cr Patrick Holmes</b> <b>Cr Marie Olsen</b> <b>Cr Phoenix Ruka</b>
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<b>Scribe</b>	<b>D.Garner (Democracy Adviser)</b>
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*Cr Scott McKenzie opened the meeting with Karakia.*

### 1. **Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga**

No interests were declared.

### 2. **Apologies / Kore Tae Mai**

Cr's Gavin Benney, Patrick Holmes, Marie Olsen, Phoenix Ruka.

**Moved By** Cr Scott McKenzie

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the apologies be sustained.

**Carried**

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Strategy, Planning and Development Committee Meeting / Whakatau Meneti**

**3.1 Minutes Strategy, Planning and Development Committee meeting 17 April 2025**

**Moved By** Cr Deborah Harding

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the minutes of the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee meeting held Thursday 17 April 2025, having been circulated be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata**

**4.1 New Private Road Name – RMA Consents – B Clarke LABBC Holdings – Ref SD2200056**

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee:

1. Approve the name of a private road off Sands Road to Juniper Way.

**Carried**

**5. Information Reports / Ngā Pūrongo Kōrero**

**5.1 Operational Report - Strategy, Planning and Development - May 2025**

**Moved By** Cr Scott McKenzie

**Seconded By** Cr Nicholas Connop

That the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee notes the Strategy and Democracy and Planning and Development Operational reports for May 2025.

**Carried**

**6. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata**

There was no business held in public excluded.

**7. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui**

The meeting concluded at 9:12am.



Confirmed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025

Cr Ken Couper (Chairperson)



## 4.1 Operational Report – Strategy, Planning and Development – June 2025

**Meeting:** Strategy, Planning and Development Committee

**Date of meeting:** 19 June 2025

**Reporting officer:** Dominic Kula (General Manager – Planning and Development)  
 Aaron Taikato (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy)

### 1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To update the committee on the operations of the services that the Strategy and Democracy Group, and the Planning and Development Group are responsible for.

### 2 Recommendation / Whakataunga

That the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee notes the Strategy and Democracy and Planning and Development Operational reports for June 2025.

### 3 Background / Horopaki

The purpose of the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee is to update Councillors on operational matters relating to the Strategy and Democracy and Planning and Development Groups.

### 4 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via Agenda publication on the website.

### 5 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Attachment 1 – Operational Report – Planning and Development – June 2025

Attachment 2 – Operational Report – Strategy and Democracy – June 2025



# **Operations Report Planning and Development**

**June 2025**

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## 1. District Plan

### 1.1 Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

### 1.2 Current Priorities

#### 1.2.1 Plan Changes

Plan Change	Status	Status Update	Influence of Central Government RM Reforms and new National Direction
PC1 – Natural Hazards	Six appeals were lodged against PC1. Most of the appeals relate to site specific hazard mapping on individual properties.	Council staff have initiated direct discussions with appellants. Council filed its first report on mediation progress with the Environment Court on 30 May 2025. Council must file its next report on mediation progress with the Environment Court by 1 August 2025.	On 29 May 2025 Central Government released consultation material on updating RMA national direction. This included a proposal for a new National Policy Statement on Natural Hazards (NPS-NH). The proposed NPS-NH directs local authorities to take a risk-based approach to new development. The decision version of PC1 is well aligned with the proposed NPS-NH.
PC2 – General Amendments	The Plan Change was made operative on 14 May 2025.	The Plan Change is now operative and work on it has been completed.	The Resource Management reforms did not impact this work, which is focused on efficiency and effectiveness improvements rather than changing policy direction.
PC3 - Rosvall Sawmill Rezoning	Hearing scheduled	The submissions period for this plan change has now closed. A hearing date has been scheduled for 28 July 2025.	The latest Resource Management reform announcements do not impact this plan change.

#### 1.2.2 Maintenance and Review Work

Maintenance and review work for the District Plan has continued in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991. We are actively monitoring the Central Government Resource Management reform programme to ensure alignment of our maintenance and review work with national direction.

- **Matters of Importance to Māori Update:**

##### *Contract Negotiations*

Formal Project Agreement documents were signed with Ngāti Taka (Ngāti Takapari) on 22 May 2025. Formal contract discussions with Te Parawhau and Te Iwitahi Manihera Whānau continue, with formalisation of these agreement documents close. The door remains open for discussion with other hapū who have an interest in partnering in the Project.

### *Phase 1*

Phase 1 has now concluded, with Ngāti Taka (Ngāti Takapari), Te Parawhau and Te Iwitahi Manihera Whānau to provide retrospective feedback on the Phase 1 deliverables. The work undertaken during this phase of the project will enable the drafting of District Plan objectives and forms a starting point to inform the work drafting policies and rules in Phase 2 of the Project.

### *Phase 2*

Council staff have been working to confirm hapū involvement in Phase 2 of the Project. An initial Phase 2 project hui with formal partners and Council staff is set for 9 June 2025.

Phase 2 deliverables include hapū input to:

- A draft Tangata Whenua Introduction chapter
- The drafting of provisions and consideration of options for mapping
- A site identification worksheet
- The protocol for handling and managing hapū data

Hapū will also provide perspectives on engaging with potentially affected parties.

### *Phase 3*

This phase focuses on mapping Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori and engaging with any potentially affected parties, which is scheduled to begin in October this year.

- **Temporary Activities, Cross Boundary Matters, Contaminated Land and Minor Improvements:**

Draft plan changes for these topics were brought to Elected Members for feedback at the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee on 17 April 2025. Following the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee meeting, the draft provisions were circulated to iwi/hapū, stakeholders, and interest groups for a further round of targeted consultation.

Two pieces of feedback were received from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Fuel Companies (BP Oil New Zealand Limited, Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited and Z Energy Limited). The feedback has been reviewed by Council Officers with a view to incorporation into the draft plan changes as appropriate.

It is anticipated that approval to formally notify the plan changes will be sought from the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee in July 2025.

- **Other District Plan Topic Reviews:**

An update was provided at the Council Briefing on 12 March following early consultation and engagement on the following topics under review in the Whangarei District Plan:

- Renewable Energy Infrastructure
- Network Utilities

Staff are planning to brief Elected Members on the following plan review topics in August:

- Public Access
- Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Drafting of plan changes for these four topics was paused earlier this year pending further information from the Central Government on the Resource Management Reforms. Further detailed announcements on the reforms were made by the Government on 29 May 2025. Staff are now working through the detailed announcements with a view to seeking feedback on the next steps in relation to this work.



### 1.2.3 Private Plan Change Requests

- **422 Marsden Point Road Rezoning Request:**

A private plan change request was lodged on 20 December 2024 seeking to rezone the site at 422 Marsden Point Road from Heavy Industrial Zone to Light Industrial Zone and introduce a precinct overlay with various site-specific rules.

On 7 February 2025, Council issued a Request for Further Information (RFI) under Clause 25 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The purpose of the RFI was to obtain clarification and additional information necessary to inform a Council's decision on whether to accept, adopt, reject, or process the request as a resource consent application. The RFI sought further technical assessment and planning analysis and evaluation on several matters within the proposal.

The applicant responded on 17 March 2025, addressing some of the matters raised. However, several issues remained inadequately addressed. As a result, a second RFI was issued on 4 April 2025, focusing on the unresolved concerns.

A response to the second RFI was received on 9 May 2025. However, the information remained insufficient to fully assess environmental effects, mitigation measures, benefits and costs, and the overall planning rationale of the request. Consequently, on 23 May 2025, Council issued a notice under Clause 24 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, seeking modifications to the request to amend the proposed precinct provisions where insufficient information had been provided.

The applicant responded on 27 May 2025, incorporating modifications. Following the modifications, the private plan change request now seeks to rezone 422 Marsden Point Road from Heavy Industrial Zone to Light Industrial Zone and introduce a precinct overlay with site-specific rules which provide for:

- Slightly more enabling provisions for Trade Retail, Food and Beverage Activities and Drive-Through Facilities.
- Restricted Discretionary activity status for large scale General Retail.

The original request and the RFIs and proposed modification documentation can be found online at: [District Plan changes - Whangarei District Council](#).

Councillors will be worked through the private plan change request at a Council Briefing on 25 June 2025 to provide more details on the background of the request and the precinct provisions proposed. This will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions. Following the briefing, a recommendations report will be prepared for the 17 July Strategy, Planning and Development Committee, which will consider whether to:

- Adopt the request (in whole or in part) as if it were a Council-initiated plan change;
- Accept the request (in whole or in part) for public notification; or
- Reject the request, where grounds exist under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Ultimately this will be a decision for elected members, however the Act sets out the prescribed circumstances under which an application can be rejected. If the request is adopted or accepted, the plan change will proceed to public notification.

### 1.2.4 Monitoring

Work identifying key areas of focus for monitoring is now complete with monitoring to commence in the second half of 2025. Several District Plan topics have been identified that require a detailed monitoring review to ensure the plan's efficiency and effectiveness in managing land use and resources. These topics include:

- **Zone Boundary Review:** Conducting a limited review of parcel and zone boundaries, land use trends, and utilisation of land.
- **Medium Density Zone – Impact Assessment:** Evaluating development trends in the Medium Density Zone to identify implementation and uptake of enhanced zoning.
- **Business Land Development Sufficiency Update:** Reviewing business land development capacity through ground-truthing development potential and suitability of assumed capacity for anticipated future business needs.
- **Net Environmental Benefit:** Reviewing the implementation of the net environmental benefit approach to ensure it is delivering good outcomes. This includes legal protection and ongoing management of significant ecological and heritage values.
- **Quarry Buffer Zones:** Assessing the alignment of mapped Buffer Areas with resource consent requirements for quarry operations. This review will identify whether the Buffer Areas are fulfilling their intended function.

In working through these topics the scale and direction of reforms has been taken into account, including the indication that there will be a national suite of zones for councils to choose from and apply under the new planning regime. As such there is likely to be limited benefit in monitoring/review of existing zones outside of boundaries until there is clarity on how the new planning system will be implemented at a local level. The monitoring reviews will inform the District Plan review programme, aiming to enhance the overall performance and alignment of the District Plan with strategic goals.

#### 1.2.5 ePlan

- **Service Level Agreement**  
The Service Level Agreement for the on-going maintenance of ePlan has been reviewed and signed with the Supplier for the coming year.
- **Enhancements Project**  
Staff have worked with the Supplier to refine the ePlan Enhancements Project scope. It is anticipated that the Statement of Work for this Project will be signed off in early June with the project commencing thereafter for a period of approximately 10-12 weeks. The work on enhancements will address current workarounds in the system that have the potential to result in issues with the legal version of the District Plan over the long term.

#### 1.2.5 Process Improvement

Work continues to improve some of our processes.

- **Website Improvements**  
Over the course of May the web team have been running some user recordings on the District Plan webpages to see how people are using the pages. We are awaiting feedback on these recordings to determine if there are any specific problem areas that could be addressed through webpage improvements.
- **Business Process updates**  
Staff have continued work updating our process manuals to ensure business process changes arising from the implementation of ePlan are captured. At the same time, we are checking other aspects of our business processes to ensure they continue to meet the statutory requirements of our processes.

### 1.3 Performance Measures and Compliance

Develop, implement, and maintain a District Plan in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 whilst reflecting the desires of the community and issues of sustainability.

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
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Plan changes are researched, proposed, consulted and reported on as required by Council in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

100%

Achieved

## **1.4 Current Challenges/Issues**

The main challenges in the work programme of the District Plan are as outlined below.

### **1.4.1 Resource Management Reform**

The Resource Management reforms have the potential to require a rescoping or reprioritising our plan reviews. We are actively monitoring the Resource Management Reform to ensure we are well placed to adjust our work programme or rescope plan reviews where required.

### **1.4.2 Sites of Significance to Māori and Significant Natural Areas**

Data sovereignty issues associated with the Matters of Importance to Hapū plan reviews must be well managed, along with the strategy to produce the work in a partnered and co-designed way. These plan reviews require hapū to identify and offer their knowledge into the process. This requires a level of trust around the sharing of this knowledge, and a clear and shared understanding around how this knowledge will be used.

These matters are being managed through the procurement process and the signing of data sovereignty agreement with hapū. In addition, staff are working with the Information Management team to develop a data management protocol to ensure the protection of hapū data shared into this Project over the long term and in accordance with the terms of the data sovereignty agreement.

### **1.4.3 ePlan**

The ePlan presents some challenges around the on-going maintenance of this system. Staff have developed and are in the process of implementing a risk management strategy for ePlan to ensure potential risks around this are mitigated. Progress toward minimising risks associated with ePlan is reviewed by Staff each month.

## **1.5 Overview of Operational Activities**

### **1.5.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship**

The Sites of Significance to Māori and Significant Natural Areas challenge noted above has the potential to pose a risk in this space if the work is not well managed.

### **1.5.2 Delegated Financial Authority Policy**

Nothing to report this month.

### **1.5.3 Budget/ Financial**

The maintenance, review and monitoring work outlined in Sections 1.2 of this report is undertaken by Planning staff, with some non-planning technical expertise associated with this work being funded by the Operational District Plan budget. The Operational District Plan budget also covers the cost of notification, submission and hearing processes (e.g. commissioners and postage costs).

All actual and reasonable costs of processing the private plan changes (to a decision) will be on-charged to the Applicant. The cost of any Council involvement in appeals to these private plan changes (e.g. lawyer time) sit with Council.

ICT Staff have verbally agreed a commitment to funding work associated with the ePlan Enhancements Project from the ICT project budget.

## 1.6 *Legislation Changes or Updates*

### • **National Direction Package**

On the 29 May 2025 the Central Government announced detail around the following packages of National Direction which are open for submissions until 27 July 2025:

1. **Infrastructure and Development** – proposal for four new national direction instruments (for infrastructure, granny flats (minor residential units), papakāinga, and natural hazards) and amendments to four existing national direction instruments (for renewable electricity generation, electricity transmission, distribution and associated activities, telecommunication facilities) to make it easier to plan and deliver infrastructure.
2. **Primary Sector** – proposal for amendments to eight existing national direction instruments (for marine aquaculture, commercial forestry, highly productive land, stock exclusion regulations and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) to enable growth in the primary sector.
3. **Freshwater** – proposal for amendments to the current national direction for freshwater

Early feedback is also sought on how “going for growth” proposals could fit into a new planning system.

Council staff are working through the detail of these announcements in the context of the current District Plan work programme and are attending a local government webinar on these announcements in early June.

At this stage District Plan staff propose to leave submissions to the Local Government and planning industry sectors unless something of strategic concern or interest for the district is identified in our review of the proposals that would justify making a submission.

## 1.7 *Future Planning / What's Coming Next?*

Noting the potential impact of Resource Management Reform on the District Plan work programme, it is expected that the current priorities set out in Section 1.2 process over the next 1-3 years. Additional review work will be brought on stream as resourcing allows and in having regard to national direction and the 10-year review requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## 2. District Development

### 2.1 Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

### 2.2 Current Priorities

- **Te Aho Tāhuhu | Community First**

Staff were involved in a recent cross-organisation sector engagement meeting with members of the building and engineering community. It provided an opportunity for the sector to discuss their concerns around a number of elements of the development supply chain process when dealing with the Council. The main benefit of this event was the number of private sector participants and their desire to work with staff to identify practical solutions.

- **Parihaka Transmission Mast**

This project is currently stalled while awaiting an engineering solution to the access difficulties associated with slips which are outside of the immediate vicinity of the mast but inhibit access of the heavy machinery required to undertake the next stage of the work. Monitoring of the stability issues on the site continue and it is hoped a solution to the lower road stability is forthcoming and work on the mast can be completed in the near future.

- **48 South Road**

Roading engineers have furnished an Integrated Transport Assessment that supports the proposed road connection, subject to several safety measures. These include:

- Localised speed reduction measures
- Formalised raised pedestrian crossing linkage across Argyle Street to link with the Caledonian Park walkway
- Safety improvements within the vicinity of Waipu Primary School (a more formalised pickup and drop-off facility - subject to a formal survey to determine arrival modes during peak hours to ensure appropriate design parameters)

Staff are now working with the consultant planner on the consenting implications and associated costs of upgrading the currently consented pedestrian and cycle connection between Argyle Street and South Road to a full road connection.

- **Hihiaua Peninsula Consultation**

There have been no changes since last reported. Staff are continuing to work through the long-term lease requirements with the Trust. The Trust has made further revisions to their Stage Two plans. This iterative process allows them to ensure that the development meets both their needs and those of the community, while also being as affordable as possible.

A variation to the funding agreement has been prepared and agreed upon by all parties. This variation will provide more certainty over the milestones that trigger payments and ensure better coordination between the Trust and Council during the disbursement of the final tranches of Council's funding in relation to the development of Stage Two.

- **Okara Marina**

Having completed Stage One of the marina development, the Trust now advise they have achieved sufficient berth licence sales to be able to commence work on Stage Two. Stage Two comprises further sea floor dredging, the construction of M Pier (44 berths), raising the reclamation level and installation of temporary shore facilities. Stage Two is to be financed through a combination of Trust cash reserves, trading surpluses and berth licence purchaser deposits. Further dredging has commenced in relation to Stage Two and installation of the first of the pontoon jetties should be imminent.

## 2.3 *Current Challenges/Issues*

No immediate challenges for staff at present other than some ongoing property legacy matters that have a continuing impact on staff capacity.

## 2.4 *Overview of Operational Activities through to April 2025*

### 2.4.1 *Economic Development*

- **Business**

Trading conditions in the Whangarei District remain subdued, with multiple sectors under pressure and signs that economic recovery will continue to be gradual. Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor shows a 1.5% decline in economic activity over the year to March 2025, reflecting ongoing softness in both investment and employment.

Construction activity has slowed significantly, with residential building consents falling 40% over the past year, well above the national decline of 3.3%. Non-residential consent values are also down 33%, as major recent projects near completion and few new ones enter the pipeline. This downturn may drive some workers to seek opportunities in other districts, such as the Far North, where consent activity has remained stronger.

Despite pressures in manufacturing, some early signs of recovery are emerging, particularly in food-related production. A strong primary sector remains a key economic pillar, with an estimated \$262 million dairy pay-out this season and beef and lamb prices up 10–15% annually. These gains are expected to support regional spending in the months ahead. Lower interest rates are gradually improving conditions, and the primary sector remains central to recovery, but construction and household spending continue to lag.

A government announcement was expected in May confirming which regions will progress to formal negotiations as part of the Regional Deals process, but this has now been delayed until June.

- **Northland Inc. Update** (as provided by Northland Inc.)

#### ***Business Enterprise and Innovation***

- In the year to date, the Northland Inc Business Growth Team has engaged one on one with 293 Northland businesses through the regional business partnership (RBP), with 51% of them being Whangarei based.
- We are seeing pockets of business confidence improving. Some businesses are reporting better trading conditions than last year and a slight lift in customers taking on new work. However, this is not across the board, and as previously reported some businesses are just keeping their head above water.
- New registrations with the RBP for the region are steady and the team is busy holding discovery meetings with a range of businesses to see what support is required to facilitate growth.
- The Northland Inc BIG Team Net Promoter Score currently sits at 80 (against a KPI stated in the Northland Inc SOI of at least 50 for the year). The NPS provides a measure of how satisfied regional clients are with the business assistance and other services provided by this team. This score has steadily increased throughout the year.
- The Pick business ideas competition is continuing through its 8-week cycle. Participants are highly engaged, and the quality of business concepts is high. The final pitch night will be held on 4th July at Te Iwitahi. As previously reported, 45% of participants are from the Whangarei district.
- Northland Inc.'s team of growth advisors are currently undertaking AI training provided by MBIE so they are better equipped to advise businesses on how to use AI to improve business performance.



### ***Destination Management***

- Continuing the international marketing focus in April, in early May Northland Inc represented the region at New Zealand's premier tourism trade event, TRENZ 2025, in Rotorua. Northland had a strong presence this year with 11 regional tourism businesses and the Whangarei District Council team. The event was held over three days, with 1,200 attendees, including 340 international buyers from 26 countries such as Australia, China, the US, UK, Japan, and India.
- Northland Inc has been leading work with North Golf Association over the past 9 months to support the implementation of a Golf Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan, which was spearheaded by a group of Northland Golf Clubs, regional representatives and interested parties. As part of this work, a golf tourism hero video for Northland and a series of four golf itineraries were launched on the NorthlandNZ.com website, featuring Waipu Golf Club. The Golf Association will be leading a social media campaign this winter and we are expecting to see Northland feature in Pacific Golfer Magazine soon as the result of a famil for writer Peter Thornton, facilitated by Northland Inc.
- Northland Inc announced this month that Savour Northland will return in October 2025. Running for the month of October, Savour Northland will once again bring together producers, chefs, venues, and communities across our entire region to showcase Northland's food, drink and manaakitanga and tempt the tastebuds of visitors and locals alike. The 2024 Savour Northland festival featured more than 125 unique food and beverage events across the region from 46 businesses, with 28% of these coming from businesses in Whangarei. There was a total of 49 entries into the Savour Northland Challenge, 35% of which came from businesses in Whangarei which were promoted through the marketing platform, supporting the partaking businesses and Whangarei's calendar of events.

### ***Investment & Infrastructure***

- Northland Inc's Tuputupu Grow Northland team have tendered two further market opportunity studies – both combinations, with the first looking at Papaya and Mango and the second looking at Ginger and Turmeric.
- Northland Inc has attended and presented at the E-Tipu Food and Fibre Futures Conference in Palmerston North
- The Northland Inc team has met with senior representatives of Massey University as they look to focus on regions as part of their long term development. The outcome of this is a follow up visit to the region in a few months' time.
- The investment team participated in early engagements and site visits regarding a potential anaerobic digester at Marsden Point – creating a sustainable natural gas. Follow up engagement is occurring.
- Presentations on the Regional Deal process have been given at the constructors forum and chartered accountants forum.

### **• Whangarei District Airport**

#### **Operations**

The airport is continuing to operate and comply with CAA requirements. However, it is still waiting on line marking to be completed to the airport's satisfaction. Downers have brought up their painting specialist to look at the issue and to come up with a solution.

A friction test was booked in with Downers, however their machine has been held up in customs due to being sent back in a container with asphalt gear that was not cleaned before being sent back. The airport is now looking for another provider to complete the services required.

Works on Alpha taxiway have now commenced and should be completed by the end of June 2025. Works on the Rescue Fire building have also started with completion scheduled around December 2025.

The Airports Association had a meeting in Wellington on Monday 12th of May at Parliament. All airports are having the same issue with Air New Zealand with regards to reliability of schedule and cancellations. Those Ministers in attendance offered no solutions to alleviate the issues or to provide the airports with any confidence that there would be assistance by them to help resolve these issues. It is likely that any solutions will be based on individual airports attracting alternative providers with the view of creating a more competitive environment. To do so will require ongoing investment in infrastructure that would be required for the airport to have capacity for a second or subsequent carrier.

### **Scheduled flights**

Air New Zealand is still having engineering and staffing issues that are affecting its flights regularly nationwide.

A total of 41 flights were cancelled during April 2025. This has had a major impact on passenger numbers for April, which will significantly impact airport revenue.

### **Historic Flight Cancellations**

Air New Zealand has a performance target of 98% of flights not being cancelled. For the period of January-April 2025 Air New Zealand has not hit their KPI, with 92% of flights not being cancelled. The data also shows that the first and last flights were the most cancelled indicating an operational connectiveness between the aircraft availability as it relates to first and last flight.

### **Noise**

There have been no noise complaints for the month of April.

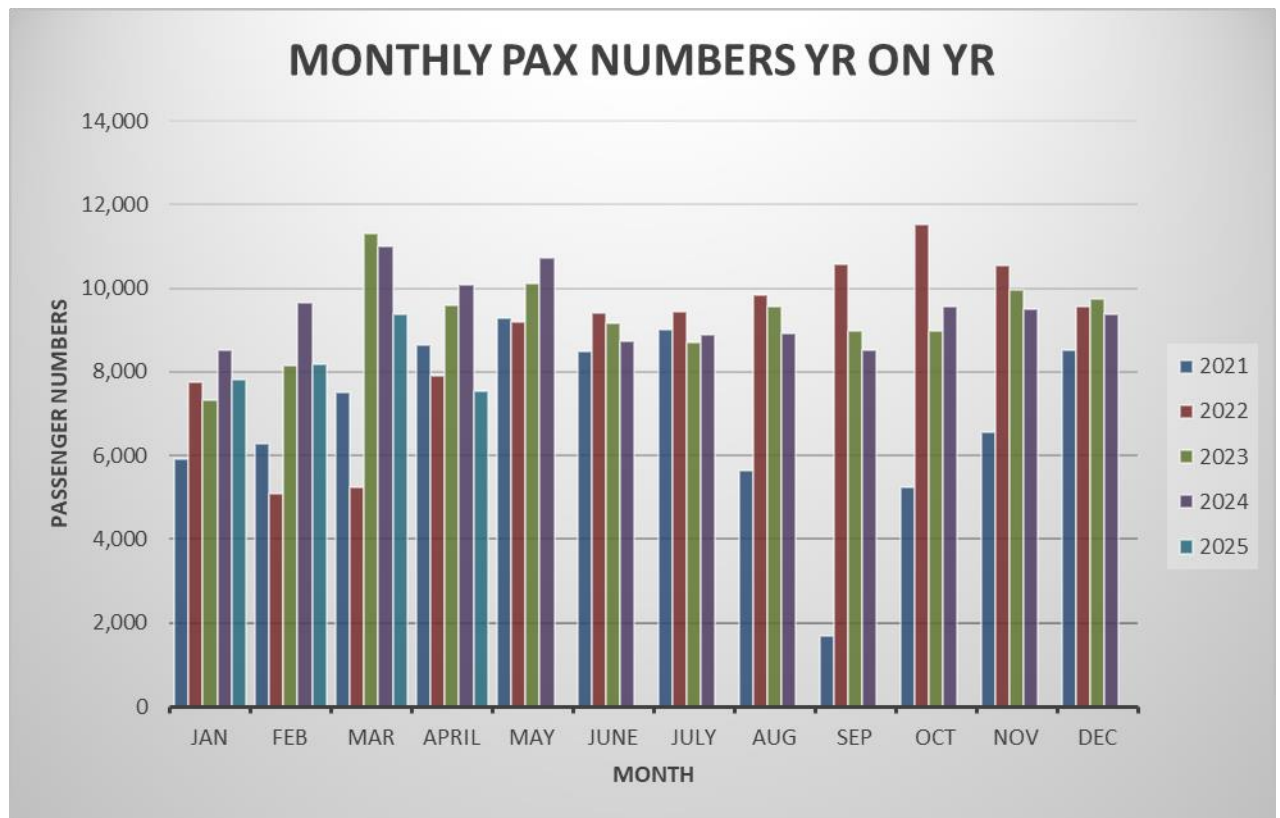
### **Parking**

Parking revenue for April 2025 was \$11,667, which is down from \$15,163 in April 2024. Cancellations are again the main contributor to the reduced revenue for carparking during April.

### **Passenger Numbers**

Passenger numbers for April 2025 were well down this year being only 7,537, compared to 10,080 in April 2024. The main reason for this reduction was due to increased cancellations.





- District Development Update**

#### **Accommodation Data**

March proved to be a quieter month in Northland, with an overall decrease in guest nights. Whangarei saw 49,000 guest nights recorded (-11% YOY), with 35,600 domestic and 13,700 international nights.

Location	Nights	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
Northland	Total	198,200	208,800	172,800
	% YOY	18%	-1%	-13%
	Domestic	151,300	154,700	116,300
	% YOY	29%	-5%	-23%
	Int.	46,900	54,000	56,500
	% YOY	-7%	8%	20%
Whangārei	Total	54,900	57,900	49,000
	% YOY	11%	3%	-11%
	Domestic	42,800	45,100	35,600
	% YOY	17%	0%	-17%
	Int.	12,000	12,800	13,700
	% YOY	-8%	10%	14%
Far North	Total	116,000	119,700	102,400
	% YOY	16%	-4%	-12%
	Domestic	85,300	82,500	63,600
	% YOY	28%	-9%	-25%
	Int.	30,700	37,200	38,700
	% YOY	-7%	10%	26%
Kaipara	Total	27,300	31,200	21,400
	% YOY	32%	0%	-40%
	Domestic	23,200	27,100	17,300
	% YOY	62%	1%	-25%
	Int.	4,100	4,100	4,100
	% YOY	-7%	-5%	0%

### Tourism Arrivals

From Infometrics: Tourism arrivals remained higher than a year ago, up 0.7% pa in the three months to March 2025. Arrivals in March fell 8.3%pa, reflecting a moderation from the strong comparator period in March 2024.

In total, 311,808 tourists arrived in March 2025, amounting to 82% of March 2019 (pre-pandemic levels), falling from 85% in February 2025 to the lowest level since May 2024. The decrease in visitor arrivals compared to a year ago was likely related to the timing of Easter as Good Friday fell on 18 April this year and 29 March in 2024.

### Website Performance

WhangareiNZ.com continues to see growth, with 7,984 page views in April (36% increase YOY) and 5,436 visits (52% increase YOY).

### 'Come on Up' Campaign

District Development paid for a two-week 'Come on Up!' advertising campaign with JCDecaux, with forty placements across Auckland Domestic Airport and Christchurch Airport. This campaign targeted the domestic market, travelling in the Easter and School Holiday period.

The video ads were created by Level, based on an advertising brief by District Development, and utilised existing footage to reduce costs. Meanwhile, the image-based ads were created in-house by the District Development team. The campaign was positively received by local operators, with Joost de Bruin from HAC noting that the campaign contributed to an increase in foot traffic over the school holidays.

#### Key messaging:

- You know you want to... Come on Up!
- Chase the sun, Come on Up!

- Holidays made easy, Come on Up!

Total impressions: 4.8 million

- 67% increase in visits to WhangareiNZ.com
- 51% increase in page views on WhangareiNZ.com

These ads are to be reused in a follow-up campaign in regional airports in June.



*Come on Up! In Christchurch Airport*



*Come on Up! on the exterior billboard at Auckland Domestic Airport.*

### TRENZ Conference

Cheree Morrison (DD) and Reana Te Hei (i-SITE manager) attended TRENZ 2025 in Rotorua, representing Council and promoting Whangarei as a destination. TRENZ is New Zealand's largest tourism trade event, and Council attended as part of 'Team Northland' alongside Northland Inc, Dive! Tutukaka, Kiwi North and HAC.

Cadet Blu Jenkins created a fantastic presentation that showcased Whangarei district to 54 buyers from domestic and international companies, from Tourism New Zealand and Expedia to boutique luxury tour companies. The feedback from buyers was positive, with many expressing surprise at how much the district offers and the range of operators. However, several stated that Northland has 'fallen off the radar' and stressed that the lack of accommodation remains the largest hurdle for buyers including Whangarei in their itineraries.

TRENZ was an excellent opportunity to showcase Whangarei as an exciting tourist destination, and to strengthen our relationship with the wider Northland team. A more in-depth report will be available next month.

View the presentation, information and itineraries at [www.whangareinz.com/TRENZ2025](http://www.whangareinz.com/TRENZ2025)

### **Find My Country House**

District Development has sponsored two 90 second slots in episodes of 'Find My Country House', airing in January 2026, 7pm on TVOne (with international and airline syndication). Council receives a 90-second promotional slot in each episode, which were filmed in Waipu Cove and the Growers Market. Cheree and Michael (wearing 'Love it Here!' t-shirts) shared why they Love it Here! and why it's an ideal place to live. Council will own the footage for future use.

### **Maori All Blacks vs Scotland**

District Development paid for a five-page spread in Rugby News Magazine, which included an editorial feature on how Northland Rugby Union and NECT2021 is supporting and growing rugby in the district, as well as a feature on visiting Whangarei. District Development continues to support V&E with activations and seek opportunities to showcase Whangarei to both the teams and visitors.

#### **2.4.2 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship**

There is ongoing engagement and discussions with hapū as to their role in Council commercial property. Parihaka Transmission Mast's future location requires ongoing engagement with hapū as do other proposals of both Council and third parties (i.e. Hihiaua).

#### **2.4.3 Delegated Financial Authority Policy**

Nothing to report.

#### **2.5 Legislation Changes or Updates**

Nothing to report.

#### **2.6 Future Planning/What's Coming Next?**

- **Inward Investment Pathway**

At present both domestic and international inward investment opportunities present themselves through multiple channels and are, to some extent, treated in an ad hoc manner depending on the capabilities and capacity of the receiver. There is an argument to develop a more coherent approach across the District and Region. This approach aims to improve, streamline and focus on investments critical to the north. By better matching investor interest with investment opportunities and conducting thorough due diligence, we can ensure that when various parties approach us, we bring the right people to the table. Following on from this, staff have worked with Northland Inc. and the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee with the outcome being that the Committee within their response to Northland Inc.'s draft Sol have offered the opportunity to Northland Inc. to

submit a proposal for additional resources to undertake this role, to the Joint Committee for funding these activities for the short-term through the Investment Growth Reserve.

- **Impact on Business**

Recent engagement with various business and central city groups has highlighted there is often a shortfall in information available on the impacts, positive or otherwise, of some sectors of our community and what weight is given to them during the decision-making process. While information regarding engineering, cultural and environment is generally considered as fundamental to good decision-making, as an organisation we often overlook the impact on the commercial sector of various projects either during the project or upon their completion. Staff are to explore how these potential impacts can be considered and given weight when undertaking work within the central business district.

### 3 RMA Consents

#### 3.1 Health and Safety

No updates.

#### 3.2 Current Priorities

The team is continuing to manage the processing of resource consent applications, post approval applications and the monitoring of approved consents to meet the performance measure targets in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan, as detailed below.

#### 3.3 Performance Measures and Compliance – Year to Date

**Council will process resource consent and associated applications within statutory timeframes.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of non-notified resource consent applications processed within statutory timeframes.	≥95%	96%
Percentage of Section 223 and Section 224 applications [processed] for subdivision consents under the RMA within statutory timeframes.	≥95%	100%

**Council will ensure compliance with land-use consents by monitoring consents issued.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of land-use consent conditions monitored.		
<i>Note: timeframes will be dependent on priorities based on potential environmental risk associated with non-compliance.</i>	100%	100%

#### 3.4 Current Challenges/Issues

We continue to work closely with the Development Engineering Team to track consent timeframes and manage capacity challenges.

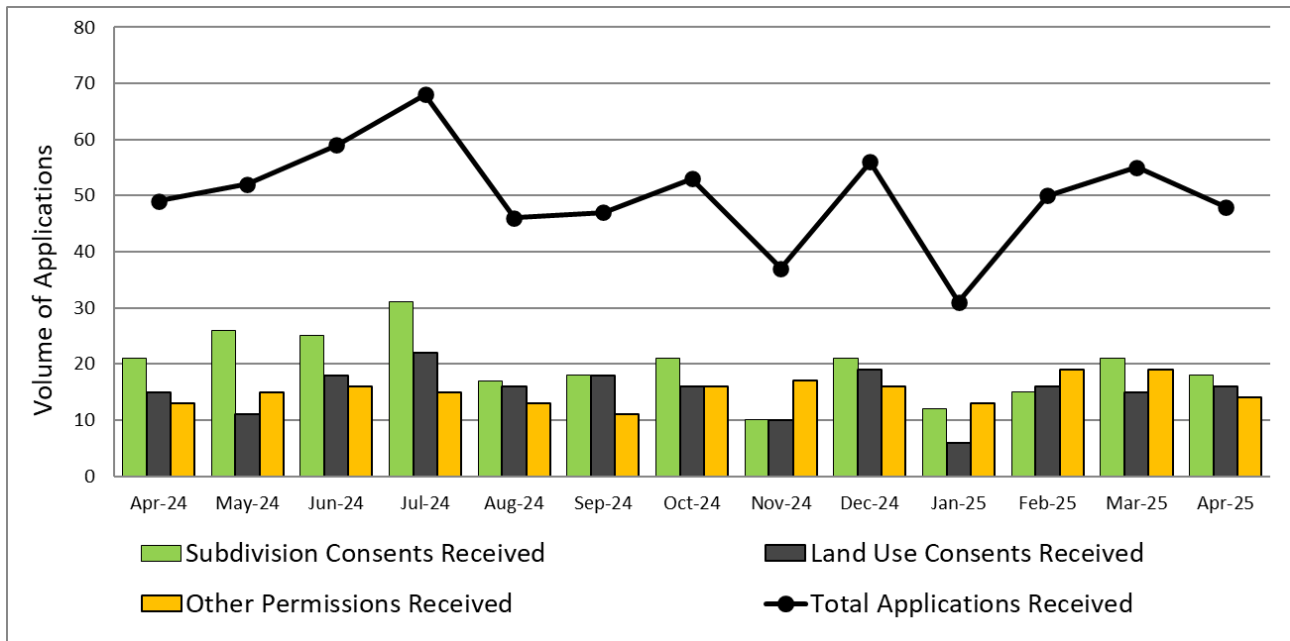
We have team leader capacity challenges due to a vacancy that is yet to be filled. We have arranged an external contractor to provide additional senior support to the team and our principal planner has also temporarily moved back into a team leader role until such a time as the vacancy is filled.

Wastewater capacity (most commonly subdivisions) where connection to the wastewater network is required, we seek input from the infrastructure team. If there is no capacity to connect to wastewater we may have to decline the application.

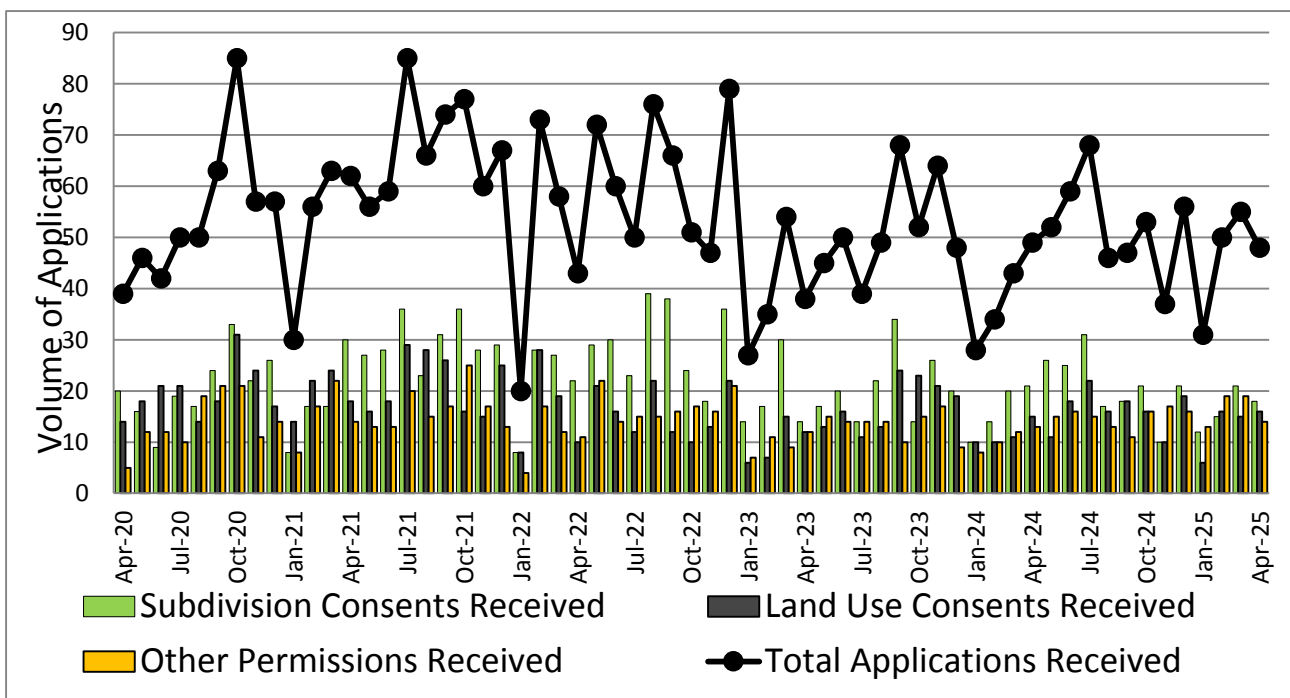
#### 3.5 Overview of Operational Activities for April 2025

The number of resource consent & post-approval applications have been stable the last quarter, averaging approximately 50 per month.

**Total number of applications received over last 12 months**

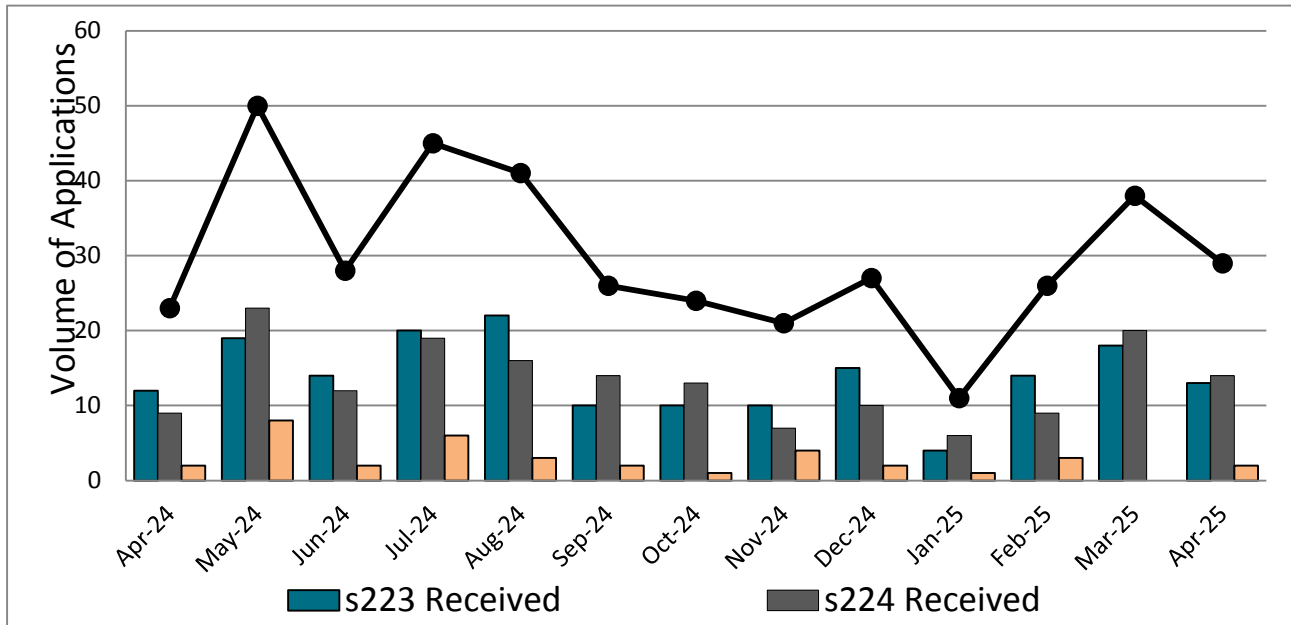


**All applications received over the last 5 years**





### Number of post-approval applications received over the last 12 months



### Applications of note received over the last month include:

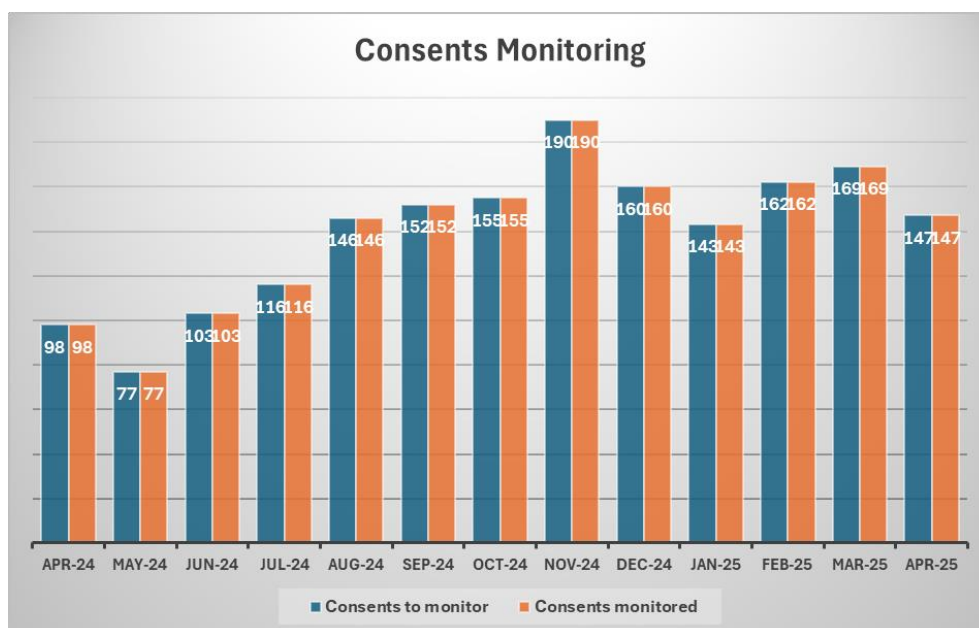
Ngunguru Seawall Extension - An application has been received to extend the Ngunguru seawall by 90m south from the Ngunguru Road boat ramp.

Marsden Point Solar Farm - an application for a 5 hectare solar farm adjacent to the Port Marsden Service Centre has been received.

Whangarei Hospital Carpark extension - an application for an extension of car park 14, located on the southern side of the hospital campus, to create an additional 492 car parks has been received.

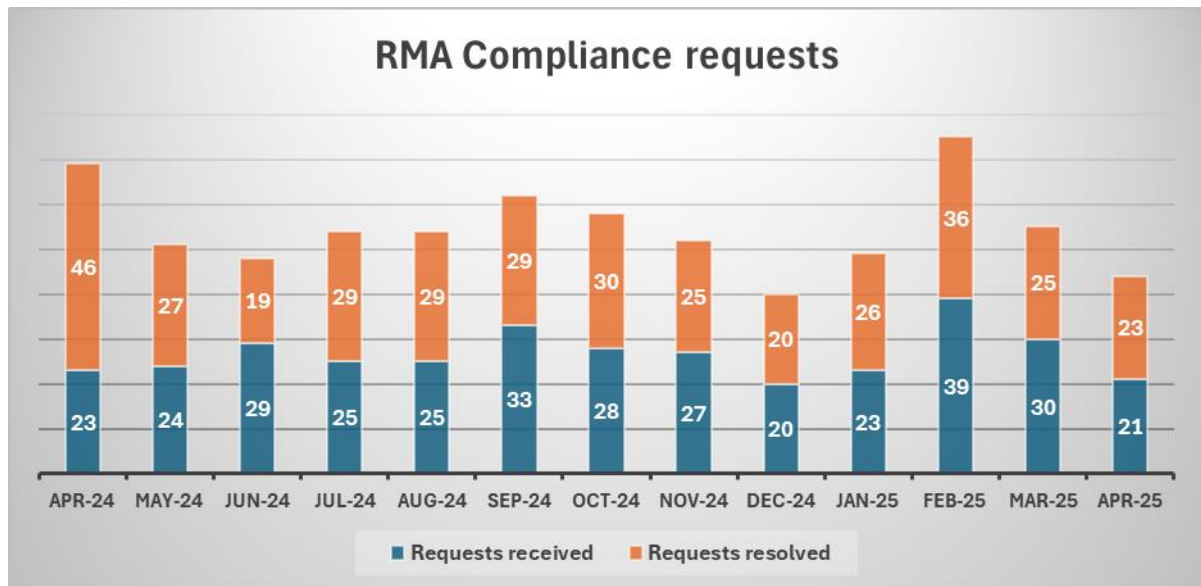
### Compliance

In April 2025, monitoring of resource consents increased by 50% compared to April 2024. This rise was primarily due to the addition of new consents to the monitoring list.





Compliance requests in April 2025 decreased by 9% compared to the same period last year. Additionally, the number of closed requests dropped by 50%, largely due to the increased follow-up time required to resolve each request.



### 3.5.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

The RMA Consents team is working on building stronger treaty partnerships with local iwi and hapū. It is noted that the resource consent process can cause friction with iwi/hapū.

### 3.5.2 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

The RMA Consents team is currently progressing the procurement process for updating councils RMA Commissioners panel. We plan to include the recommendations as an agenda item for a July Council meeting.

## 3.6 Legislation Changes or Updates

Nothing to report.

## 4. Building Department

### 4.1 Health and Safety

On-going risks include vehicle safety, staff working alone, staff visiting potentially dangerous buildings/members of the public (compliance) and staff inspecting construction sites.

### 4.2 Current Priorities

As outlined previously, trialling of remote inspections has begun and is being offered to customers when calling to book. The government is introducing performance standards on inspection timeframes, with 80% of inspections being required to be undertaken within 3 days of a request being made. This performance standard replaces the previous proposal that all inspections should be done remotely. Remote inspections will need to form part of the inspection plan if the performance goal is to be met. MBIE are to commence monitoring of the performance of BCAs in relation to this from the July quarter.

### 4.3 Performance Measures and Compliance

**Council will responsively and accurately manage the building consents and compliance process.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of building consents applications processed within statutory timeframes.	96%	92%
Percentage of inspections completed within two days.	≥95%	95%

97% of the consents issued in April were within the 20 working day requirement, an improvement from the last 2 month's results.

### 4.4 Current Challenges/Issues

Nothing to report.

### 4.5 Overview of Operational Activities for April 2025

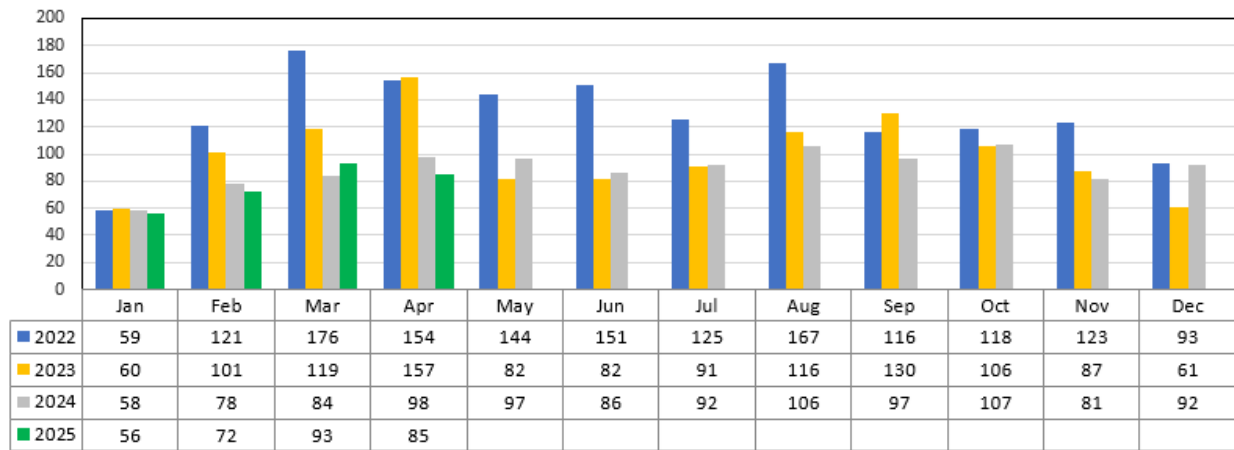
In April 85 applications were received, which is a 13% decrease from the corresponding month last year and a drop of about 10% from March 2025. The generally low number of consents received is expected to continue for some time yet.

64 consents were granted, with an average processing time of 12 working days per consent and a total customer time of 24 days (near identical days to last month).

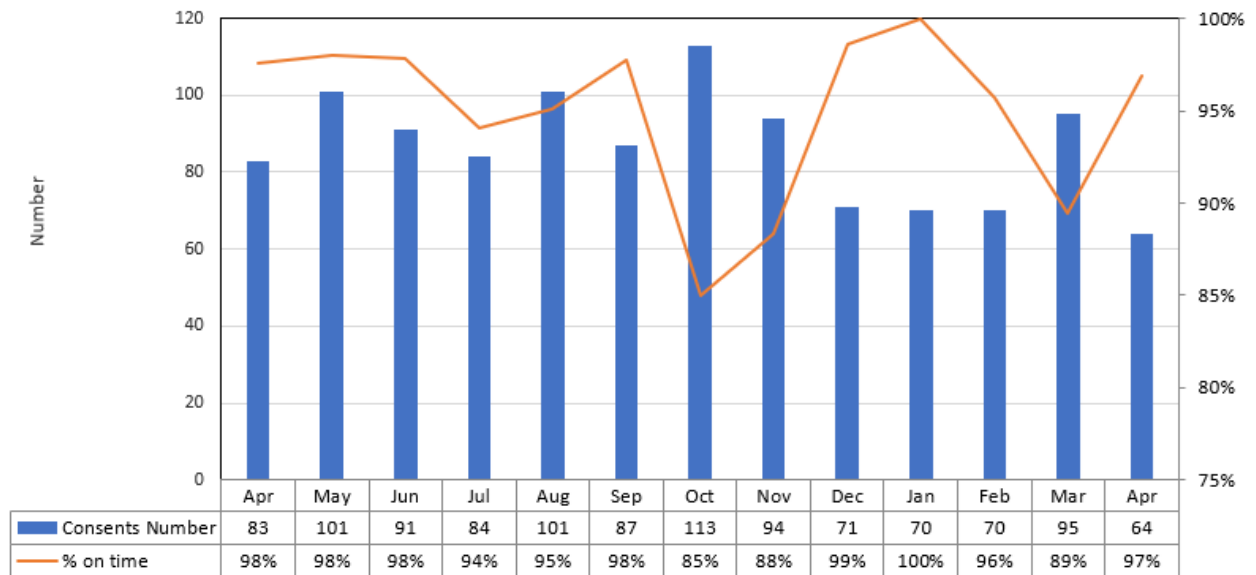
375 inspections were conducted in April, this number is a significant drop from the 526 undertaken in March and reflects the drop-off in construction activity.

170 LIM applications were received (compared with 143 in April 2024) with 174 issued in an average of 5 days. This is a slight decrease from last month's high numbers. 6 PIMs were issued, at an average of 5 days to process. 6 PCS (Potentially Contaminated Site) report requests were received, with an average of 18 working days to process.

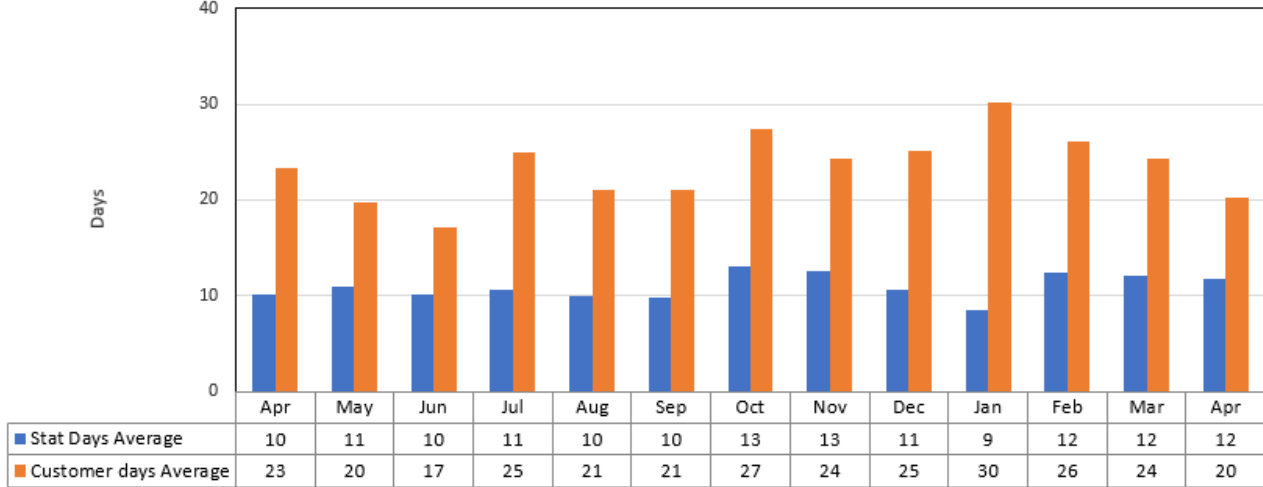
Current 4 year view of Applications Received



Number of Consents Issued and 20 day time frame performance 2024 - 2025



Statutory vs Customer Days 2024-2025



#### **4.5.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship**

The activities of the building department are not considered to be a risk to the Tiriti relationship.

#### **4.5.2 Delegated Financial Authority Policy**

No new contracts were let during April.

#### **4.6 Legislation Changes or Updates**

The government continues to progress its goal of reforming the Building regulatory system. The proposed changes to allow “granny flats” to be built without Building Consent (Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill) has passed its first reading in parliament and is likely to be law by the end of 2025. Work is also continuing on the reform to BCAs which seem likely to result in amalgamations.

#### **4.7 Future Planning / What’s Coming Next?**

Currently, we are in a waiting period as there are no open consultations. However, submissions for the BCA reform proposal will be sought later this year.

## 5. Health & Bylaws

### 5.1 Health and Safety

Nothing to report and no additions to the organisational risk register this month.

However, in general, our Regulatory Services contractor Armourguard and their teams continue to face potential risks to their health and safety related to vehicle safety, staff working alone, and when interacting with potentially aggressive members of the public through their compliance roles.

### 5.2 Current Priorities

Both the Environmental Health team and Regulatory Enforcement Services contractor Armourguard, are continuing to focus on their core functions and aiming to achieve their individual performance measures, as highlighted below.

### 5.3 Performance Measures and Compliance

**Council will ensure responses to complaints relating to parking, excessive noise, dogs, stock, and bylaws are carried out within contracted timeframes.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of complaints responded to within contracted timeframes.	≥85%	April 2025 = 95% Year to date average = 97%

**Council will protect and promote public health by monitoring those premises, which under the Health Act 1956 require annual registration and inspection.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of Health Act registered premises inspected annually.	100%	This is an annual measure, only measured at the end of the financial year

**Council will promote food safety by registering and verifying those food businesses which the Food Act 2014 specifies that local authorities can register and verify.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of food businesses verified within timeframes as specified by the Food Act 2014.	100%	This is an annual measure, only measured at the end of the financial year

**Council will aim to reduce alcohol-related harm by annually inspecting alcohol licensed premises to ensure compliance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and licensing conditions in general.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Percentage of alcohol licensed premises inspected annually.	100%	This is an annual measure, only measured at the end of the financial year

#### **5.4 Current Challenges / Issues**

There are currently no challenges or issues.

#### **5.5 Overview of Operational Activities for April 2025**

Business as usual, nothing specific to report.

##### **5.5.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship**

The activities of the Health & Bylaws department are not considered to be a risk to the Tiriti relationship.

##### **5.5.2 Delegated Financial Authority Policy**

Nothing to report.

#### **5.6 Legislation Changes or Updates**

No changes or updates to report.

#### **5.7 Future Planning / What's Coming Next?**

Below follows a monthly update on the construction of Council's new animal shelter (dog pound).

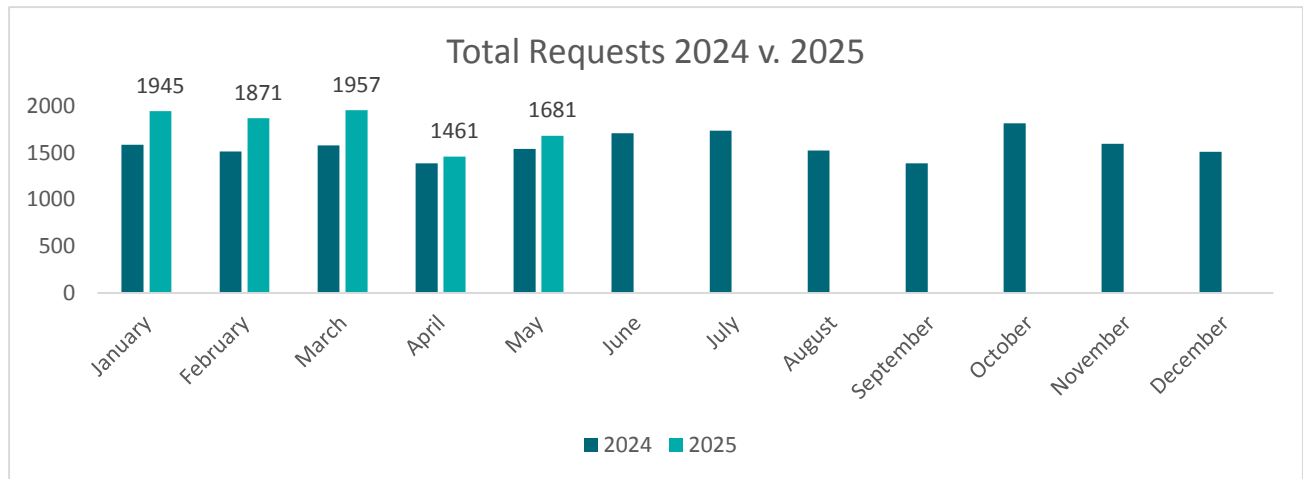
Project	Current Stage	Estimated Construction Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	RAG Status
New Animal shelter construction	Construction	Sep-22	Oct-24	

Minor snag list items are being worked through, and construction is practically complete.

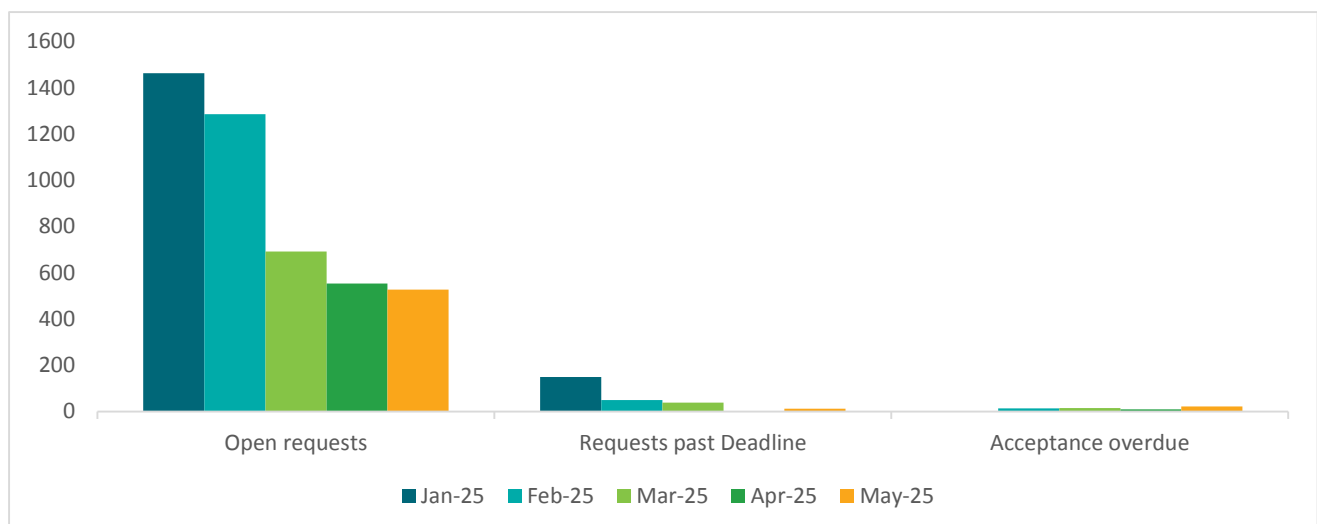
Building fit is complete and the Armourguard Animal Management team moved in on 11 November 2024 and have been settling in well. The construction contract remains within the approved contract value, and the project is expected to be delivered under the total project budget. Bank drainage installation is still required, and paperwork is being worked through for the Certificate of Compliance.

## 6. Group Requests

### CRM Request Performance Dashboard – as at 4 June 2025



Requests for May 2025 were 9% higher than in March 2024 (1681 vs. 1543). There was also an increase in overall requests from the month previous, however still lower than the average of 1924 across January-March this year.



The Planning and Development team continues to demonstrate strong performance in managing customer requests, with all key performance indicators showing consistent month-on-month improvement. Since January, the number of open requests has decreased by 64%, from 1,463 to 527. Additionally, the volume of requests that are either overdue or past their acceptance deadline

has remained consistently below 30. These outcomes reflect the team's effective and sustained efforts in addressing outstanding requests throughout the year to date.



# Operations Report Strategy and Democracy

June 2025

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## 1. Democracy and Assurance

### 1.1 Health and Safety

No physical Health and Safety issues due to the nature of the work but continuing to monitor wellbeing of staff as resources are stretched. The Department is under pressure due to ongoing recruitment challenges, which is causing additional pressure on the staff keeping the democracy, and legal teams functioning.

### 1.2 Current Priorities

- Safety and security of staff when supporting Council meetings.
- Planning for Local Elections 2025.
- Adhering to Legislative requirements. This includes meeting the LGOIMA requirements for Council meetings (agenda preparation and public notices) as well as responding to Official Information requests and investigating any reported privacy breaches under the Privacy Act 2020.
- Dealing with ad-hoc requests for advice to the Legal team in a timely manner.

### 1.3 Performance measures and compliance

**Aim: Our Democratic functions are transparent and meet the legislative requirements.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 Target	Compliance Year to Date
11.1.1 Responses to requests for information made under the Local Government Official Information Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 2020 are provided within relevant statutory timeframes.	≥95%	96.02%

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 Target	Compliance Year to Date
11.1.2 Percentage of Council, committee and hearing agendas that meet relevant legislative timeframes.	100%	95%

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 Target	Compliance Year to Date
11.1.3 Percentage of Council recommendations that are not altered by amendment in chambers for reasons of ambiguity.	≥95%	100%

We are behind on the performance measure in relation to the publication of Agenda's, this is due to the short turn around between meetings of items for discussion to decision. We will not achieve this performance measure for 2024-25.

### 1.4 Current challenges/issues

Resource Challenges:

- Continuing to process Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act requests within legislative timeframes has been a challenge due to the increased number of requests and complexity of those received, alongside high workloads across the organisation with competing priorities. This is requiring more staff time and leading to some overdue

responses for the year alongside the de-prioritisation of other workstreams to manage requests. To help ease this workload the department brought in an additional person to assist in reducing the backlog, during May.

- Resourcing and ad hoc demands on staff time are the challenges for this department.

The whole department works with the operational staff, the strategic leadership team, and the elected member group, this organisational wide stakeholder group creates a unique dynamic for the team to work with. The team are a strong group but lean in number, they work with the resources available. This means that there needs to be continuous pragmatic prioritisation to ensure that important and urgent tasks are delivered first.

### 1.5 Overview of Operational Activities for May

The Democracy Team supported the following meetings and processed the following licensing applications, during the month of May:

Meeting	Number
Council	2
Committee	8
Council Briefing	4
Council Workshop	2
<b>District Licensing Committee activities</b>	
License applications	44

Following review of remuneration for District Licensing committee contracts for the chair and independent commissioners will be amended to reflect and increase in remuneration for the current committee.

### Local Government Elections 2025 (LGE2025)

Council's Electoral Staff continue to work alongside the Electoral Commission during the 'Enrol' phase of the LGE2025, to strengthen the narrative to all residents and rate payers that the first part of the election process is to ensure that people are enrolled to vote.

The 'Stand' phase is in progress and will continue until close of nominations on 1 August. Whangarei District Council will host a Candidates Information Evening on 4 June 2025 from 5-7:30pm. This event is currently being widely advertised to attract the interest for anyone wanting to know more about standing for Council.

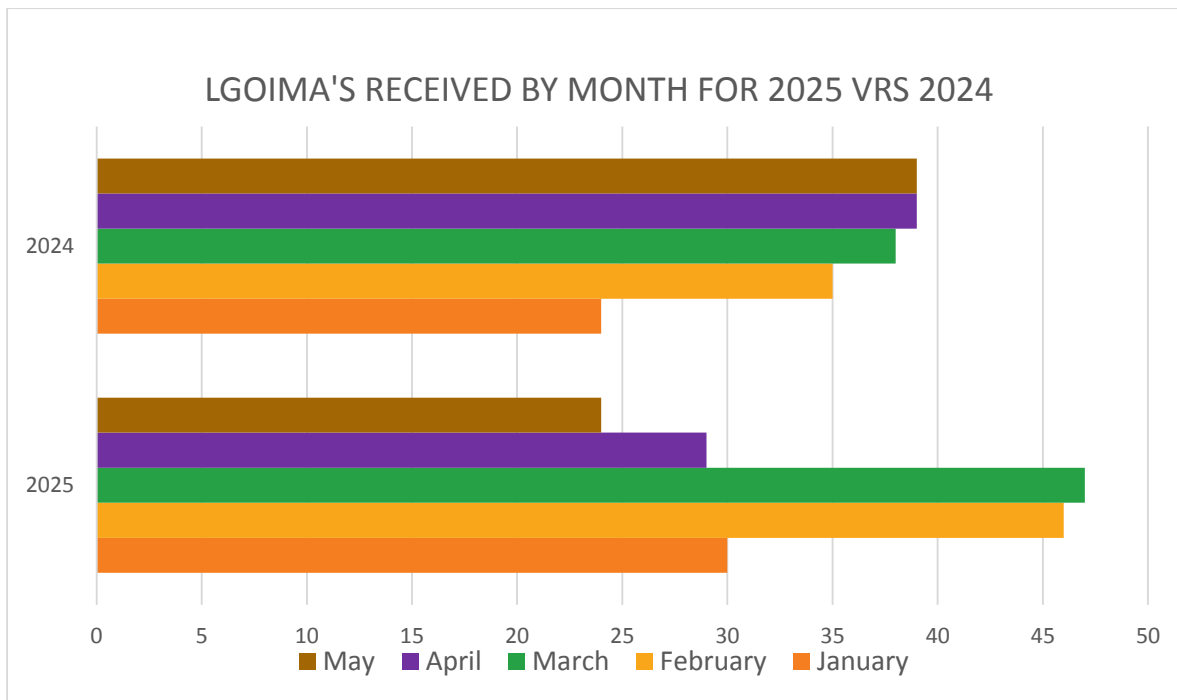
Planning for the 'Vote' phases has commenced. Council's Electoral Staff are finalising the locations of the ballot boxes to be placed around the district.

Elected Member and Staff protocols have been distributed ahead of the pre-election period, legislatively prescribed as commencing on 11 July.

### Official Information Act Requests (LGOIMAs)

Statistics for official information requests have been recorded from 1 May 2025 to 25 May 2025. The Assurance team has received a total of 185 requests in 2025.

The graph below compares the official information requests received between 1 May 2025 and 25 May 2025 with the total requests received throughout May 2024. The current period shows that we have received fewer requests in the last month.



The team receives approximately 5-11 requests each week, creating a high volume of work. These requests are often broad and complex, requiring significant effort and coordination with multiple departments to meet deadlines.

The additional staff support provided to the LGOIMA team has enabled the team to complete other tasks that were previously neglected due to the high volume of requests received since the start of the year.

This support has also allowed for a comprehensive review of the LGOIMA process with the team, to better manage large volumes of requests during peak periods, as this is a situation that staff will encounter again.

## Insurance

Council's Professional Indemnity and Public Liability policy is due to renew on 30 June 2025.

The insurance proposal has been completed and returned to Marsh for them to seek insurance terms on behalf of Council.

Insurance premiums appear more optimistic than the last renewal. It is anticipated that premiums will flatten, rather than facing another year of steep increases. This is speculative but based on trends that Marsh is seeing in the market for Local Governments. Premiums will be confirmed once terms are offered by insurers in June.

## Risk

Reports are being prepared for the next Risk and Audit Committee which will be held on 4 June 2025.

## Privacy

Privacy week (12-16 May) was a great opportunity to remind staff of privacy requirements and what to do if they notice a breach of privacy for staff or customers. The event was driven by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC). Staff were encouraged to attend free webinars hosted

by the OPC including a webinar titled “The Government is Local – The Privacy is Global” which focused on privacy within the local government sector.

Webinars are recorded and accessible at any time on the OPC YouTube channel, and provide great training resources for staff, particularly in departments that deal with high volumes of personal information.

Elected members must also adhere to the Privacy Act 2020 when dealing with personal information they receive about residents and ratepayers. This information must not be inappropriately disclosed to other individuals, or organisations, outside of the Whangarei District Council. Elected Members can also benefit from the free online webinars to upskill themselves in this topic.

## **Internal Audit**

BDO are in the early stages of undertaking an internal audit on Council’s procurement processes.

Staff anticipate that the audit will be completed and reported to the September Risk and Audit Committee meeting.

### **1.5.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship**

It is recognised that supporting the democratic process brings with it obligations under Te Tiriti and The Treaty which the department try to support through provision of democratic services. Interpretation and implementation of these principles in relation to the legislation, continues however, to test the status quo.

### **1.6 Legislation changes or updates**

Staff will continue to advise Council on current legislation and are monitoring legislative changes that are coming through parliament for implementation. Staff regularly review what legislation is open for consultation and support the relevant department to provide submissions on items of relevance to the district.

An amendment to the Privacy Act 2020 is expected to come into force on 1 May 2026. This will add a new information privacy principle called IPP3A. IPP3A will apply to situations where Council obtains information about an individual from another agency, rather than from the individual directly. There will be an obligation for Council, in these situations, to notify the individual about the collection (unless one of the legislative exceptions apply).

Over the next year staff will continue to monitor the situation and keep up to date with information and guidance released from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner about IPP3A.

### **1.7 Future Planning / What’s coming next?**

The Democracy and Assurance department has a reoccurring, rolling programme of work relating to the Council meetings and legislative deadlines. The other areas of the team work on a request basis so workloads fluctuate.

The Democracy team is already very engaged in preparations for the LGE25, as well as looking at the induction arrangements for the Council for the next triennium.

The agenda preparation review system (E-scribe) is due to be upgraded this year. Staff are waiting for information about additional functionality that the team and other departments can utilise. Timeframe for changes is second half of the year with updates in place for the start of the next triennium of Council.

## 2. Strategy

### 2.1 Health and Safety

The existing team workload is high and will remain high for the remainder of this financial year continuing into the 2025-26 financial year as demonstrated by the draft work programme included in section 2.4.

### 2.2 Performance measures and compliance

Our policies and strategies remain up to date and relevant to the community.

Performance Measure	2024 – 34 target	Compliance
Percentage of statutory policies, bylaws, plans and strategies that are reviewed with the relevant statutory timeframes (LTP 2024-34, 11.2.1)	100%	Review of organisation-wide compliance has been completed: 97% of 29 statutory documents compliant.

### 2.3 Current challenges/issues /risks

#### Resourcing

The department work programme is ambitious. Resourcing challenges outlined in previous Operational reports remain true.

## 2.4 Draft Strategic Planning Department work programme

Workstream, Programme & Projects	Dept Lead	Statutory
<b>Bylaws &amp; statutory policies</b>	<b>12 projects</b>	
<i>Solid Waste Management Bylaw</i>	external contract	y
Parking and Traffic Bylaw (Kamo Rd T2 lane)	WM	y
Alcohol Control Bylaw	WM	y
Public Places Bylaw	WM	y
Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw	WM	y
Class 4 Gambling Policy	WM	y
Board Venue Policy	WM	y
Food Businesses Grading Bylaw	WM	y
Control of Vehicles on Beaches Bylaw	WM	y
Stormwater Management Bylaw	WM	y
Wastewater Bylaw	WM	y
Camping in Public Places Bylaw	WM	y
<b>Spatial Planning</b>	<b>6 projects</b>	
FDS Implementation Plan	HS	y
Regional Deals (unplanned)	DM	n
Housing and Business Model (improvements and review, incl. Alignment with LTP)	HS	y
FDS Review (& inform/align with LTP 27/37)	HS	y
Knowledge Precinct Plan	LE	n
Northern Growth Area Structure Plan (unplanned)	DM	n
<b>Placemaking Programme</b>	<b>3 projects</b>	
Raumanga Placemaking Plan	CGP	n
Monitoring & Reviews of existing placemaking plans	CGP	n
Ruakākā Placemaking Plan	CGP	n
<b>Climate Adaptation</b>	<b>9 projects</b>	
<b>Climate Adaptation Programme</b>		
Whangaruru/Oakura - Community Adaptation Project -Pilot	RN	n
Whangarei Urban Flood Strategy	RN	n
<b>Tangata Whenua-led Climate Planning Fund (BoF)</b>		
BoF - Project 1	RN	n
BoF - Project 2	RN	n
BoF - Project 3	RN	n
BoF - Project 4	RN	n
BoF - Project 5	RN	n
BoF - Project 6	RN	n
BoF - Project 7	RN	n



Te Tai Tokerau Adaptation Strategy Implementation	RN	n
Te Ao Māori Decision Making Framework	BA	n
Quarterly Briefing to Council	RN	n
<b>Housing Strategy Programme</b>		
Pensioner Housing	HS	n
Papakāinga regulatory applications (BoF)	BA	n
Housing Strategy Review & Implementation	HS	n
<b>Other</b>	<b>13 projects</b>	
Regional Accessibility Strategy Implementation	All	n
Welcoming Communities Strategic Action Plan	HS	n
Regional Infrastructure Plan (unplanned)		n
Infrastructure Modelling		
Coastal Management Strategy Review		
Reserve Management Plan Review		
RLTP & RPTP Review		
Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)	BA	
Site-specific urban design assessments	LE / DM	
Strategic Oversight on Resource Consents & Development Proposals	LE / DM	

## 2.5 Overview of Operational Activities for May 2025 & Next steps

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
<b>Spatial Planning</b>		
<i>City Centre Programme: Knowledge Precinct Plan</i>	<p>Public engagement was the focus for May. This has involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>several public sessions</li> <li>communications: emails, letters to local businesses, landowners and stakeholders, social media posts.</li> <li>an online survey</li> <li>bespoke meetings and events for particular groups – such as the Intermediate School students.</li> </ul> <p>Response has been largely positive with people appreciating the opportunity to engage. Staff were particularly enthused by attending the Growers Market, where we had approximately 60 conversations with people.</p> <p>Staff are also looking at ongoing engagement opportunities with businesses, stakeholders and particularly hapū.</p> <p>The survey is still live at the time for writing.</p> <p>Staff have begun to analyse the responses.</p> <p>Staff have also been working with the Programme Manager and team to work through the setup of business case processes including documenting the reasons for the project, and what are a full list of options that should be looked at for various parts of the precinct.</p>	<p>Prepare a full summary of engagement including results for presentation to Council in either June or July.</p> <p>Progress the findings from the engagement through the existing work, refining the strategic direction, and the potential actions that could be included in the Precinct Plan.</p> <p>This work will also be done with the Programme Manager and team to stay consistent and best informed of financial and economic opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>PSB actions not listed.</p>
<i>Placemaking Programme</i>	<p>Staff joined a meeting of the NorthTec student representatives to invite them to participate in the engagement process. Students showed interest in the process so an optimal ongoing engagement approach is being worked through.</p> <p>Staff continue to engage with local landowners and developers to understand development aspirations and constraints.</p> <p>Staff continues to work on the engagement agreements with local hapū.</p>	<p>29 May – workshop with local community groups. This is intended to gather feedback on the current draft of the strategic framework.</p> <p>Staff to determine the extent of engagement and dates for the second round of community engagement.</p>

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
<i>Future Development Strategy (FDS)</i>	<p>Staff made themselves available to Elected Members to discuss the FDS, adoption of the Strategy, next steps and integration across Council. This process was well received by those that undertook it. Additionally, staff worked through final comments and adjustments before preparing documentation to support adoption.</p> <p>WDC and NRC have formally adopted the FDS, following a comprehensive and collaborative development process. The final Strategy reflects extensive input gathered through both early and formal consultation phases, as well as valuable contributions from the FDS Working Group and Elected Members.</p>	<p>Undertake final formatting changes before making the Strategy and supporting documentation publicly available.</p> <p>Under Clause 3.18 of the NPS-UD, WDC and NRC must prepare and implement an Implementation Plan for the Strategy.</p> <p>No current decisions on how the Implementation Plan will be prepared have been made – this will be worked through with Elected Members as part of a process review.</p>
<i>Northern Growth Area – Springs Flat</i>	Currently this project is not a priority, and no work is being progressed.	No change
<b>Statutory Policies &amp; Bylaws</b>		
<i>Alcohol Control Bylaw</i>	Council Briefing on 7 May 2025 to discuss coastal alcohol bans. This included discussion on bylaw-making processes and enforcement issues in coastal areas.	Council decision to confirm extent of current alcohol bans deferred to July due to congested work programme
<i>Parking and Traffic Bylaw</i>	Drafted key resolutions and agenda report for Kamo T2 transit lane	Decision report to give legal effect to the Kamo T2 transit lane (date tbc)
<i>Public Places Bylaw</i>	Drafted engagement material for key external stakeholders	Engagement with key external stakeholders to inform draft new bylaws
<i>Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw</i>	Drafted engagement material for key external stakeholders	Engagement with key external stakeholders to inform draft new bylaws
<i>Class 4 Gambling Policy</i>	Council Briefing to discuss options on 7 May 2025	Decision report on outcome of review at Council meeting on 26 June 2025
<i>Board Venue Policy</i>	Council Briefing to discuss options on 7 May 2025	Decision report on outcome of review at Council meeting on 26 June 2025
<i>Camping in Public Places Bylaw</i>	<p>Council decision at meeting on 22 May 2025 to amend the bylaw to bring it into line with amendments to the Freedom Camping Act 2011</p> <p>Council decision to shift the designated camping site at Ruakākā Riverside Reserve away from a</p>	<p>Amendments to bylaw come into force on 7 June 2025. Publish public notice and update website with amended bylaw.</p>

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
	flood-prone area has been deferred indefinitely following feedback from Bream Bay ward Elected Members.	
<b>Climate Change</b>		
<b>WDC lead</b>		
<i>Climate Adaptation Programme – Whangaruru/ Ōākura catchment</i>	Staff have completed their review of the initial draft recommendations report for the Whangaruru / Ōākura Catchment, prepared by consultants Adapterra. Feedback has been provided to support further refinement of the report.	Continue reviewing and refining the summary and recommendations reports to ensure clarity and alignment with adaptation goals.  A joint meeting between WDC and Ngātiwai representatives is scheduled for early June to discuss key findings and feedback from the review process.  Final refinements will focus on ensuring the report meets the needs of the pilot site while also contributing to broader climate adaptation objectives across the district.
<i>Tangata whenua-led adaptation - Better Off Funding</i>	Staff have contacted all successful and unsuccessful Request for Proposal (RFP) applicants by phone, followed by written confirmation via email. Each applicant was offered the opportunity to meet and further kōrero with staff about their proposal and discuss next steps in the process.  Staff are currently working with successful applicants to refine their proposals and budgets in response to feedback from review panel.	Applicants are addressing comments provided by the review panel.  Once revisions are complete, staff will proceed to finalise the funding agreements.
<b>Regional Collaboration</b>		
<i>Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau (CATT)</i>	Planning is underway for the <b>Combined Māori Teams Climate Hui</b> , to be held on 29–30 May 2025 at Ōtāngaroa Marae in Whangaroa. This two-day regional hui will bring together District and Regional Māori teams, climate practitioners, kaupapa Māori experts, iwi engagement specialists, policy advisors, and community organisers from across Te Tai Tokerau.  The hui will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening collaboration across Māori-led climate initiatives</li> </ul>	Capture key outcomes and recommendations from the hui to inform regional climate adaptation planning

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing updates on research, tools, and community-based resilience projects</li> <li>• Coordinating responses to political and environmental challenges</li> <li>• Elevating rangatahi Māori leadership in climate action</li> <li>• Exploring mātauranga-led solutions and collective action pathways</li> </ul> <p>In early May, the Urban Intelligence team visited Te Tai Tokerau (5–9 May) to support the rollout of the <b>Resilience Explorer</b> tool. Regional adaptation planners gathered to explore the tool's capabilities and begin workshopping how it can be used to inform and strengthen local adaptation planning efforts.</p> <p>A demonstration was provided for those less familiar with the platform, followed by collaborative sessions to assess how the tool could best support ongoing mahi across the region.</p> <p>As part of this engagement, staff also ran through the process of using Resilience Explorer to undertake a Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment. Discussions were held on the types of data required and how to prepare for broader use of the tool.</p> <p><b>Minister Potaka's office</b> requested information about local government climate change adaptation activity with marae. Staff facilitated a regional response including a summary risk report exported from the Resilience Explorer tool.</p>	<p>Identify and collate additional data inputs needed for a comprehensive risk assessment</p> <p>Refine the application of the tool based on initial feedback from the planning team</p> <p>Work towards a soft launch of Resilience Explorer in the coming months</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with Urban Intelligence to tailor the tool to regional adaptation needs</p>
<i>The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC)</i>	Group interviews for the JCCAC Regional Leadership Review commenced in April. The interviews are being facilitated by external provider <i>Te Whakahaere</i> and will continue through to the end of May.	<p>A full recommendation report, incorporating insights from the interviews, will be presented at the July JCCAC meeting.</p> <p>The next JCCAC meeting is scheduled for 24 July at the NRC Council Chambers.</p>
<b>Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)</b>		
<i>Officer Working Group</i>	Attendance in working group to ensure Whangarei and Northland perspectives are included in strategic planning and advocacy for the upper North Island. Current priority is to contribute to the development of an	Further information on the development levies to replace development contributions is expected from the Department of

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
	<p>Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) for UNISA.</p> <p>Prioritisation criteria are being developed informing what is in / out of scope for the IDP.</p>	<p>Internal Affairs at the next UNISA Mayors &amp; Chairs meeting.</p>

#### 2.4.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

The Department work programme presents risks to Council's relationship with its Te Tiriti partners, primarily due to project timeframes and resourcing impacting the ability to have meaningful engagement. Project teams, facilitated by Māori Outcomes, have communicated the benefits of working together while also communicating the constraints and risks transparently to hapū.

### 3. Corporate Planning

#### 3.1 Health and Safety

No health and safety issues identified. With a new manager joining at the end of April the capacity of the team has increased, but the period around submissions on Annual Plan closing required extra hours to be worked.

#### 3.2 Current Priorities

Over May the department has focused on three main tasks:

- Annual Plan 2025/26
- Annual Report 2024/25
- LTP 2027-37 planning.

#### 3.3 Performance measures and compliance

Corporate Planning Department has oversight of the organisation's monthly and annual reporting on performance measures and compliance. The Long Term Plan has already been adopted and the Annual Plan 2025-2026 is in development now.

#### 3.4 Current challenges/issues

No particular challenges beyond the usual tight turnarounds for reports for Council meetings related to Annual Report.

#### 3.5 Draft Corporate Planning Department work programme

Corporate Planning	Lead	Statutory	Status
Annual Plan 2025-26	GF	y	In progress
CPM 2024-25 (incl. Residents' Survey)	GF	y	In progress
Annual Report 2024-25	GF	y	In progress
CPM 2025-26 (incl. Residents' Survey)	GF	y	Planned
Long Term Plan 2027-37	BB	y	Planned
Annual Plan 2026-27	GF	y	Planned
Annual Report 2025-26	GF	y	Planned
Projects Book LTP	NE	n	In progress

#### 3.6 Overview of Operational Activities for May 2025 and Next Steps

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
<b>Corporate Planning</b>		
<i>2025-26 Annual Plan (AP26)</i>	<p>Consultation closed on 2 May with late submissions accepted until 9 May 2025.</p> <p>649 submissions were received on the AP (incl. 8 late submissions) and 142 were received for the 2025-26 Fees &amp; charges.</p> <p>Twelve volumes of submissions were created, incl. one for F&amp;C and one for late submissions.</p> <p>Submission hearings were held on 12 May. 91 submitters indicated that they wanted to be heard, 33 confirmed time slots and three failed to show on the day meaning 30 submitters were heard.</p>	<p>Deliberations to be held on 5 June 2025.</p> <p>Production of the 2025-26 Annual Plan and associated documents for adoption on 26 June.</p>

Project	What we did in May	Next steps
	<p>Subject matter experts completed their review and analysis with the results consolidated into a final issues and options report. Non-budgeted, high-risk opex was also addressed.</p> <p>The I&amp;O briefing was held on 27 May. Elected Members discussed the matters raised and direction was provided to staff for the preparation of Deliberations.</p> <p>The Deliberations agenda report was started.</p>	
<i>2024-25 Corporate Performance Management System (CPM)</i>	<p>Progress packs circulated and completed for December 2024, January and February 2025.</p> <p>Training completed for various staff.</p>	Circulation of progress packs for March, April and May 2025 results.
<i>2024-25 Resident's Survey</i>	<p>Second wave of sampling approved and commenced.</p>	Second wave of sampling to be completed. Results to be analysed by researchers with the final year report expected in late June.
<i>2024-25 Annual Report (AR25)</i>	<p>Started preparation of templates for commentary from Activity managers.</p> <p>Confirmed responsible managers for Flood Protection, Coastal Systems, Libraries and CDEM.</p>	Distribute commentary templates to Activity managers.
<i>2027-37 Long Term Plan (LTP27)</i>	<p>New manager reviewed Lessons Learnt document from previous LTP and spoke with various staff to understand their views on what we could do better next time. Reviewed Taituarā guidance on LTP planning.</p> <p>Started thinking about sequencing of project and project governance.</p>	Present draft Project Plan to GM with aim to commence project in July.

### 3.6.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

No current risks to the Tiriti Relationship. Engagement with Te Kārearea, Te Huinga and local hapū representatives will be an important part of future engagement plans for the Long Term Plan.

### 3.7 Legislation changes or updates

The Department of Internal Affairs will be launching a new council performance measurement framework on 30 June. This comes out from the November 2024 Local Government (System Improvements) Amendments Bill. We will have a role in reviewing the Council's profile provided by DIA by 13 June.

Government decisions on our Water Services Delivery Plan to be made in October 2025 with an implementation period from November 2025 to July 2027 will impact on the scope and content of future Annual Plans, Annual Report and the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.



### ***3.8 Future Planning / What's coming next?***

Business as Usual - planning for next Long Term Plan, collection of data and information for the 2024/25 Annual Report and adoption of the 2025-26 Annual Plan.

Process improvements - we also hope to have the opportunity to document the business processes behind the Annual Reporting and Annual Plan processes using new process mapping tool (Flowingly) and working with owners of performance measures across the business to similarly document the description of each measure and the data sources for each measure so that audit can be reassured as to the accuracy and robustness of the reported metrics in the Annual Report.

## 4. Māori Outcomes

### 4.1 Health and Safety

No work environment related issues raised, continue to monitor workload.

### 4.2 Current Priorities

The advancement of both the Māori engagement and cultural capability frameworks continues. This work aligns with Council's commitment to building meaningful relationships with mana whenua, hapū and iwi, while strengthening internal understanding and responsiveness to Māori. To support the development of the engagement framework, a provider is being onboarded.

A key focus of current efforts is the establishment of an internal Māori engagement system, designed to provide clear guidance and resources for operational teams engaging with mana whenua, hapū and iwi. The engagement system will function as a central point for best-practice engagement, ensuring consistency, cultural safety, and alignment with Council's obligations under the LGA and RMA. The system is on track for a Puanga Matariki launch, for which development has been guided by internal needs assessments and ongoing staff input.

In parallel, the Fees and Koha Policy—designed to standardise compensation for Māori time, expertise and cultural contributions—is currently with the Finance team for review. A supporting Fees and Koha framework is also being finalised to provide operational guidance and ensure consistent, transparent application of the policy.

### 4.3 Performance measures and compliance

**To maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes.**

Performance Measure	2024 – 25 target	Compliance
Engage the collective hapū of Whangārei each quarter throughout the reporting period to discuss matters of importance to tangata whenua and Council. (LTP 2024-34 11.3.1)	100%	Configuration, scheduling and budget for quarterlies completed; first quarterly meetings to be completed by close of June.
Engage with Te Huinga each quarter in the reporting period to discuss matters of importance to Te Huinga and Council. (LTP 2024-34 11.3.2)	100%	Configuration and scheduling completed; Māori Outcomes first quarterly meetings to be completed by close of June.
Design and distribute an annual survey to Māori to support monitoring outcomes for Māori in contributing to local government decision-making processes. (LTP 2024-34 11.3.3)	75%	Scope and intent of survey yet to be finalised.
Produce a Tiriti audit, review and implement all recommendations by 30 June 2027. (LTP 2024-34 11.3.4)	75%	Stage Two of the two-stage Treaty of Waitangi audit ("Treaty Health Check") for Governance, Operations and Hapū is completed. Both Stage One and Stage Two reports have been reviewed by their respective governance, operations, and hapū participants. The auditors are now preparing to finalise the full audit report.

## 4.4 Current challenges/issues

In the absence of a formal Māori Engagement Framework and a clear policy on compensation for Māori time, expertise, and services—including the appropriate use of koha—Māori Outcomes has been supporting operations to develop consistent, culturally appropriate engagement practices across Council. These gaps have historically led to reactive rather than proactive engagement approaches, creating inconsistencies across departments and placing additional pressure on Māori Outcomes to provide case-by-case advice and direction.

### Engagement Pre-2022

Māori Outcomes continues to provide support to address engagement gaps that occurred prior to 2022, when projects were progressed without comprehensive input from all affected mana whenua and/or hapū. In many cases, the lack of structured processes led to engagement only being initiated at the completion of a project—often at formal openings—missing critical opportunities for strategic partnership and input.

Since 2022, Māori Outcomes has worked alongside departments to rebuild trust, improve engagement planning, and embed more robust practices. With Long-Term Plan funding now secured, the onboarding of an external provider will further accelerate the development and rollout of the Māori Engagement Framework. These actions are intended to prevent the recurrence of past failures and uphold Council's responsibility to engage meaningfully and consistently with mana whenua, hapū and iwi.

#### 3.4.1 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Māori engagement is shaped by cultural, historical, relational, and societal complexities, requiring local intelligence and expertise to ensure effective and meaningful relationships. For Council, Māori engagement aligns with both general and Treaty-based statutory obligations, including the responsibility to consider the views, diversity, and interests of all communities, while maintaining and enhancing opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes.

Māori engagement is fostered across three tiers for which Whangārei district-based hapū are represented.

#### ***Te Kārearea - Te Huinga - Ngā Hapū o Whangārei***

- Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee is a Council committee where half of the fourteen-member composition consists of hapū-appointed representatives.
- Te Huinga is a hapū forum established to provide an interface with Whangārei District Council who also facilitate hapū member appointments to Te Kārearea.

While Te Huinga and Te Kārearea serve as the primary collective representation bodies for Whangārei hapū, not all hapū actively participate in Te Huinga or the appointment process for Te Kārearea:

- To uphold hapū agency and ensure broader engagement coverage, many hapū hold direct relationships with Council and an informal forum also exists to enable all Whangārei hapū to engage on priority Council matters, programmes, and activities.

#### ***Challenges in Ensuring Comprehensive Engagement with Māori***

Although these three tiers provide a structured approach to Māori engagement, several challenges remain:

- Capacity and capability constraints within hapū, particularly in non-resourced working spaces.

- Diverse urban and rural priorities, leading to varying levels of engagement and influence.
- The need to balance formal representation structures with informal mechanisms to support prior and informed engagement across all hapū.

These complexities underscore the ongoing need for flexible and adaptive engagement approaches to ensure Whangārei hapū can meaningfully participate in decision-making processes.

#### **4.5 Overview of Operational Activities for May**

##### **Cultural Capability support for:**

- Māori Services/Engagement Hub
- Waiata sessions | Fortnightly in Manaia room
- Māori All Blacks game | Pōwhiri
- Monthly internal whakatau
- Matariki – Pre | Post District event

##### **Māori Engagement support for:**

###### ***Hapū/Iwi Engagement***

- Papakāinga Fund
- District wide water projects | An overall engagement approach on all projects pertaining to water
- Lower Waiorohia Loop
- Northern Growth Area
- Stormwater Hui
- Te Huinga | Engagement Advisor attends

###### ***Hapū Engagement***

- Resource Management Consents
- Ngunguru Retirement village Stormwater project Engagement

##### **Internal Meetings**

- Inter council Māori Teams hui
- Presented at SLT | Engagement System
- Welcoming communities
- Engagement system session with staff
- Papakāinga Fund | Internal Panel
- District Planning Team | Papakāinga, Matters of Importance to Hapū
- Water projects | Hapū engagement approach
- Ruakākā Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Kōwhiringa 2025 | Elections
- Marketing Planning | Māori All Blacks cultural integration
- Review Draft 'mahere ā rohe o ngā hapū'
- Tangata Whenua Policy draft
- Ngunguru Seawall
- Climate Change steering committee
- Request for Proposal (RFP) Tangata Whenua Led Climate Adaptation Fund
- Pre Application meetings- Resource Consents

##### **Council; Te Kārearea | Standing Committee**

- Support for May & June meetings
- Working Group - Review of Terms of Reference 2023-2025

#### 4.5.1 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to note.

#### 4.6 Legislation changes or updates

The coalition government has progressed a suite of legislative changes that roll back key initiatives introduced by the previous government, many of which directly affect local government and Māori-Crown relationships. These include the introduction of the Treaty Principles Bill, the repeal of the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Act, and proposed amendments to the Resource Management Act through the Fast-Track Approvals Bill. While the previous government prioritised strengthening the nation's Tiriti o Waitangi commitments, the current government has signalled a shift in direction, with a focus on redefining how it interprets and implements its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. These developments have implications for Māori engagement, representation, and participation in local governance processes.

#### 4.7 Future Planning / What's coming next?

Ongoing development and improvement of tools, frameworks, and materials that enhance organisational cultural understanding, capability, and improved delivery.

As part of this, the **Kia Mātau, Kia Mōhio** Māori Cultural Capability Framework is being developed to strengthen the organisation's understanding of Te Ao Māori, tikanga, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This framework will provide structured pathways for both individual and organisational cultural capability growth.



**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

1.	The making available of information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of persons who are the subject of the information. {Section 7(2)(c)}
2.	To enable the council (the committee) to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations. {(Section 7(2)(i))}.
3.	To protect the privacy of natural persons. {Section 7(2)(a)}.
4.	Publicity prior to successful prosecution of the individuals named would be contrary to the laws of natural justice and may constitute contempt of court. {Section 48(1)(b)}.
5.	To protect information which is the subject to an obligation of confidence, the publication of such information would be likely to prejudice the supply of information from the same source and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. {Section 7(2)(c)(i)}.
6.	In order to maintain legal professional privilege. {Section 2(g)}.
7.	To enable the council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations {Section 7(2)(i)}.

**Resolution to allow members of the public to remain**

If the council/committee wishes members of the public to remain during discussion of confidential items the following additional recommendation will need to be passed:

**Move/Second**

"That \_\_\_\_\_ be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of his/her/their knowledge of Item \_\_\_\_\_.

This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because \_\_\_\_\_.

*Note:*

*Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public.*